



SUDBURY URBAN DISTRICT
OR
BOROUGH OF SUDBURY
IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for 1951

TO the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Sudbury:—
Mr. Mayor, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration, the Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough of Sudbury for the year 1951.

In the General Statistics Section it will be noted that the Registrar General estimates a considerable decline in the population of the Borough. To a large extent this would appear to result from the necessity for “overspilling” into an adjoining Rural District.

No special comment seems to be necessary regarding Vital Statistics or the Notifiable Infectious Diseases, and no deaths resulted from Measles, Whooping Cough, or Poliomyelitis. No cases of Diphtheria occurred.

During the year efforts were made to improve cleanliness in the handling of food and notices requesting owners to avoid taking dogs into food shops were distributed.

I wish to record my gratitude to the Town Clerk, Mr. R. Coates, the Borough Surveyor, Mr. C. L. Heyne, and the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. H. Kerridge for their assistance during the year reviewed.

I have the honour to be, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

1.—General Statistics

Figures in brackets relate to the previous year

Population, Registrar General's Estimate	6318 (6960)	Area	1925 acres
Number of inhabited Houses	2561 (2509)	Rateable Value	£36,535 (£36,191)
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31/3/52	£143 7s. 8d. (£141 8s. 11d.)		

2.—Extracts of Vital Statistics for the Year

LIVE BIRTHS	TOTAL	M	F	
Legitimate	65 (90)	33 (42)	32 (48)	Crude Live Birth per 1,000 estimated population 10.6 (13.2)
Illegitimate	2 (2)	1 (2)	1 (0)	Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 11.7
Total	67 (92)	34 (44)	33 (48)	England and Wales 15.5 (15.8)
STILL BIRTHS				
Legitimate	0 (3)	0 (2)	0 (1)	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population 0.00 (0.43)
Illegitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population, England and Wales 0.36 (0.37)
Total	0 (3)	0 (2)	0 (1)	
Illegitimate Birth Rate	2.1%			

DEATHS registered in 1951										Death Rate (crude)	..	..	17.1
										Death Rate (adjusted)	..	..	12.0
										Death Rate of England and Wales			12.5 (11.6)
TOTAL 108 (110) Male 55 (45) Female 53 (65)													
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child-birth, pregnancy or abortion													
(a) from sepsis													
(b) other causes													
Deaths of Infants under one year Legitimate													
Illegitimate													
Death Rate of Infants under one year													
All infants per 1,000 live births ..													
England and Wales per 1,000 live births ..													
Causes of Death of Infants under one year													
(a) Prematurity													
Deaths from Measles (all ages)													
Deaths from Whooping Cough													
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)													
										MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ..										8 (6)	8 (14)	16 (20)	
Deaths from Heart Diseases ..										24 (25)	21 (20)	45 (45)	
Deaths from Bronchitis										2 (0)	2 (3)	4 (3)	
Deaths from Pneumonia										3 (0)	3 (3)	6 (3)	
Deaths from Nephritis										1	0 (1)	1 (2)	
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Respiratory)										0	1 (2)	1 (2)	
Deaths from Tuberculosis (other forms)										0	0 (1)	0 (1)	
Deaths from Leukaemia										2 (1)	0 (0)	2 (1)	
Deaths from Vascular Lesions of the													
Nervous System										2 (6)	7 (14)	9 (20)	
Accidents (Motor Vehicle)										2 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)	
Accidents (Other)										0 (1)	1 (2)	1 (3)	
Suicide										0	2	2	
Other, and Ill-defined Diseases ..										5	4	9	

SECTION B

A. WATER SUPPLY

An adequate supply of water has been maintained throughout the district. Quarterly bacteriological analyses have been taken, in all cases the results have been excellent. The samples were taken after chlorination, which is carried out as a precautionary measure only.

No chemical analysis was taken during the year. Owing to the extreme hardness of the water there is no danger from dissolved lead.

B. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Improvements to the sewage disposal works have been carried out including the installation of six rotary distributors on existing filter beds in place of obsolete distribution channels.

This has resulted in a considerably improved effluent.

SECTION C

1. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other districts.
One Sanitary Inspector, Member of Sanitary Institute.

2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service which is carried on through the agency of the West Suffolk Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME

The West Suffolk County Council's Home nursing and midwifery service supply two District Nurses.

4. INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The West Suffolk County Council provide one centre in the town. A clinic is held weekly at the Youth Club premises, Stour Street, on Thursdays at 2 p.m.

5. HOSPITALS

St. Leonards.
Walnuttree.

6. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service directed by the Medical Research Council, at Ipswich has given the Borough very generous service.

The following is a statement of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during 1951 :

INSPECTIONS

[illegible]

SANITARY WORKS AND IMPROVEMENTS

[illegible]

TEMPORARY DWELLINGS

Number of inspections 16

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Number of nuisances found	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Number of nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Number of complaints from H.M. Inspectors (dealt with)					..	..	..	..	2

BAKEHOUSES

[illegible]

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS

[illegible]

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Premises used for manufacture, storage, etc., of ice cream:

NO. ON REGISTER	NO. OF INSPECTIONS	DEFECTS FOUND AND DEALT WITH
18	52	7

Premises used for manufacture of other preserved foods:

NO. ON REGISTER	NO. OF INSPECTIONS	DEFECTS FOUND AND DEALT WITH
19	260	26

The clean food lecture, given at the Town Hall in July, was well attended.

HOUSING

Undertakings not to re-let	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sinks and water supply secured		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Additional w.c. accommodation		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Unsatisfactory housing conditions reported		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Overcrowding abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Investigations regarding applications for Council Houses						..	..	..	..	11

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

During the year the following foodstuffs were condemned:

BUTCHERS' MEAT

75 articles comprising 683 lbs. in weight.

OTHER FOODS:

1,036 articles comprising 945 lbs. in weight and 180 pints of milk.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Disinfections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Spraying work	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Many wasp nests, etc., treated and minor stoppages of drains, etc., cleared.												

ANTI-RODENT

Inspections made..	5700
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TREATMENTS OF BUSINESS PREMISES

Major infestations	0
Minor infestations	30
Infestations of mice only	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Structural anti-rodent work	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

TREATMENTS OF PRIVATE DWELLINGS

Major infestations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Minor infestations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	420
Infestations by mice only	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60
Structural work	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

COUNCIL PROPERTIES

Major infestations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Minor infestations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sewer treatments	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

FARM PROPERTIES AND LAND

All such areas in the Borough were inspected to ensure that pest destruction was carried out where necessary, usually by servicing companies. Some work was done by the Council's Rodent Operator on farms also.

A great deal of advice was given on rat proofing.

MEETING OF WORKABLE AREA SUB-COMMITTEE

This Committee, which includes representatives from Clare, Cosford and Melford Rural Districts, Haverhill and Hadleigh Urban Districts, and Sudbury Borough, and the West Suffolk Agricultural Executive Committee met at the Municipal Offices on the 6th June, 1952. Alderman McQuhae was voted to the chair. A wide range of subjects was discussed, and it was decided to make Sudbury the centre for future meetings, to be held at six monthly intervals.

SAMPLING

Reports as a result of analysis of samples taken during the year were all satisfactory. Milk, public water supply, and the Council's swimming bath were subject to sampling.

COUNCIL ESTATES

Regular visits were made in connection with complaints and repairs, the maintenance of cleanliness, ensuring suitability of tenants' structures and other matters. Reports were made regarding repair, decoration, and work necessary to gates, paths, and fences, etc.

CIVIL DEFENCE

A survey of habitable rooms and feeding facilities in the Borough was carried out in detail, and other work done in aid of civil defence schemes.

E. H. KERRIDGE,
Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION D

National Assistance Act, 1948

Section 47.—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and protection.

No cases arose during the year calling for action in accordance with this section of the Act.

SECTION E

Prevention of and Control over Infectious Diseases

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED

DISEASE									CASES NOTIFIED	
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	(12)
Whooping Cough .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	(0)
Measles .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	(3)
Pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	(0)
Infective Jaundice .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	(2)
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	(0)
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	3	(1)
Poliomyelitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	(0)

Figures in parentheses refer to the Year 1950.

AGE OF INCIDENCE

DISEASE	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	3	9	13	14	—	—	1
Measles	—	3	—	—	2	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	1	3

TUBERCULOSIS

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	
Number of cases at commencement of year	11	18	29	5	1	6	35
Number of cases added during year	2	2	4	1	—	1	5
Number of cases removed during year	1	2	3	—	—	—	3
Number of cases remaining on register at end of year	12	18	30	5	1	6	36

No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SECTION F

FACTORY ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities **	1	29	150	2	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	2	58	241	2	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	3	10	30	—	—	3
Total ..		97	421	4	—	

FACTORY ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “cases”)

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were in- stituted (7)	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	4	6	6	—	1	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	7	1	1	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	10	2	2	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	1	—	12
Total	60	9	9	—	2	—	60

* *e.g.* Metropolitan Borough, County Borough, Borough, Urban District, Rural District.

† *i.e.* Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

** Wide differences exist in the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Factories Acts, 1937 are enforced by Local Authorities. It is requested therefore that Local Authorities should, as soon as can conveniently be arranged, compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work				M/c line No.	Section 110 No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)
Wearing apparel—Making, etc.	..	..	..	13	1

G. P. BARCLAY,
Medical Officer of Health.